

Fire Island Photo Interpretation Key

Class: *Spartina patens* - *Eleocharis parvula* Herbaceous Vegetation (Brackish Interdunal Swale)

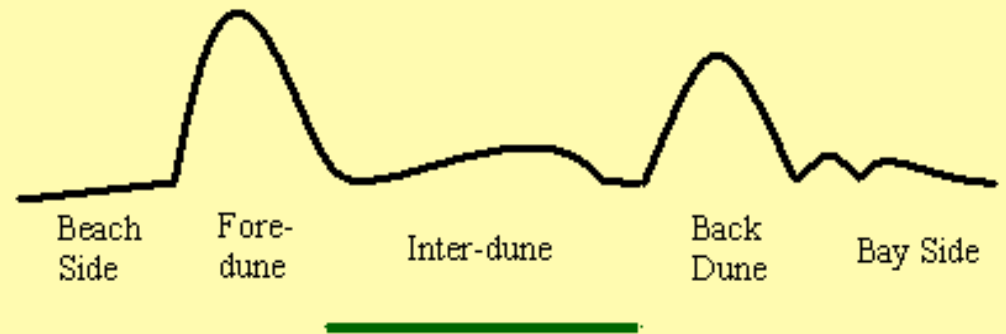


TNC Alliance Code: V.A.5.N.k.29. 6342

CMI Code: 6342

Type Locator:
Restricted to Fire Island

Cross-Section:



TNC Alliance Description: This community occurs in brackish, interdunal swales behind primary and secondary dunes. Standing, oligohaline (salinity = 2 ppt) water pools to approximately 4 cm. The substrate is characterized by 10-55 cm of peat over sand. This community is generally dominated by *Scirpus pungens*, *Eleocharis parvula*, or *Spartina patens*. Associated species include *Pluchea odorata*, *Scirpus robustus*, *Phragmites australis*, *Distichlis spicata*, *Scirpus americana*, and *Cyperus polystachyos*, all of which occur

sporadically and with low percent cover. There is often a sparse shrub layer comprised of *Baccharis halimifolia* that forms hummocks within the standing pools of water.

Photo Interpretation: This type is found behind primary and secondary dunes where saline surface water is found. When these wetlands are not dominated by *Phragmites* they appear dark and closely match open water. The vegetation is emergent and is difficult to identify specifically from the photography.

Aerial Photo Samples:



Field Notes: Standing water located in the interdunal area. Characterized by *Spartina patens*, *Eleocharis parvula*, and *Scirpus pungens*.

Ground Photos:



Similar Alliances: None